AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on Page 3, line 2, and ending on Page 4, line 10, of the Summary of the Invention section of the Specification with the following replacement paragraphs in order to make the Summary of the Invention section commensurate with the pending claims:

The invention relates to a ~~virtual router distributed on a~~ carrier network <u>fulfilling a distributed virtual routing function</u>, said carrier network comprising one or more components, each of the components comprising at least two nodes communicating with one another by means of an artery, a node comprising ~~a FAx~~ <u>an</u> access function ~~and server functions (LES/BUS, LECS, MPS)~~. It is characterized in that at least one component of said network comprises the following elements:

- several ~~ELANi bridges~~ <u>bridge ELANs</u>, each ~~ELANi bridge~~ <u>bridge ELAN</u> being connected to a virtual network ~~VLANi~~ <u>VLAN</u>,

- at least one transit ELAN, ~~Tx,~~ <u>all access functions of the same component being adjacent through said transit ELAN, and</u>

- at the level of an access function [[Fax]]:

   - router LEC means [[Rix]] adapted to ~~connecting~~ <u>connect</u> the access function [[Fax]] to at least one ~~ELANi~~ <u>bridge ELAN</u> associated with a ~~VLANi~~ <u>VLAN</u>,

   - means [[(Lx)]] for the identification of the ~~VLANi~~ <u>VLANs</u> serviced by the access function [[Fax]],

   - means (<u>transit</u> LEC ~~transit~~) to connect the <u>transit</u> ELAN ~~transit~~ to the access function.

The invention also relates to a method of routing in a switched network comprising one or more components, the component or components comprising at least two nodes connected by a communications artery, each of the nodes comprising an access function [[Fax]]. It is

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characterized in that it comprises at least one step where the access function relays the data packets received on ~~one of the LECs~~ a router LEC or a transit LEC as follows:

    (a)   if the addressee of the packet is an internal routing function laid out at a node X, the packet is directly handed over to said function,

    (b)   if the addressee of a packet is a VLAN serviced by the [[Fax]] access function, the data packet is relayed to the router ~~having the same identifier~~ LEC of the node X corresponding to the VLAN serviced, and

    (c)   if the addressee of the packet is a VLAN that is not serviced, the packet is relayed ~~to the~~ on a transit ELAN via the transit LEC of a node X to the transit LEC of a node Y.

The step (b) may be carried out as follows:

- if the addressee VLAN ~~with the identifier j~~ belongs to the list [[Lx]], the relaying function of [[Fax]] the access function is activated and the data packet is relayed to the [[LEC]] router [[Rjx]] LEC having an identifier that is the identifier of the addressee VLAN, and

the step (c) may be carried out as follows:

- if the addressee VLAN does not belong to the list [[Lx]], the data packet is relayed to the transit LEC of a node Y as mentioned in the routing table.

The present invention comprises especially the following advantages:

- it provides users of non-interconnected components with a routing service equivalent to the one offered by the complete network,

- in the case of the merger of several components, it enables the merger without redundancy of the functions offered.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 5, line 15, of the More Detailed Description section of the Specification with the following replacement paragraph to correct the omission of the Ethernet network referenced as "Uk" as shown in Figure 1:

Figure 1 shows a view of an ATM network 1 (level 2) comprising several switches 2 (corresponding for example to the nodes X, Y and Z of the network) and several arteries 3, each

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of the arteries connecting two switches.   This network has the function especially of interconnecting different items of equipment 4 in local area network emulation mode.   These different items of equipment 4 fulfill the role of passageways between several ethernet networks 5, referenced Ui, Vi, Uj, Uk, and Vk to which they are connected and the ATM network 1. Various stations can be connected to each ethernet network.

A replacement abstract showing the changes made is appended hereto as a separate page. No new matter has been added.

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